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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 29 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the so-called "International Conference to Support the Islamic Revolution of the People of Palestine", which was held

at Teheran from 19 to 22 October 1991 under the official auspices of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the opening of the conference, President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran told the participants that, "Iran is even ready to dispatch troops to fight Israel along with the Palestinians" (IRNA, 19 October 1991). He also said, "... history proves that Israel cannot continue to exist in this region ... We are hopeful that the Teheran conference will determine the appropriate paths and resources for jihad against Zionism and its supporters in the region" (Teheran Radio, 19 October 1991).

Two days prior to the opening of the conference, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the spiritual leader of Iran, called upon Moslems to oppose peace with Israel and to wage jihad against it, and he asserted that it is impermissible that Zionists should feel secure wherever they may be throughout the world (Reuters and Associated Press, 17 October 1991).

At the end of the conference, according to the Teheran Times of 23 October 1991, a 28-point declaration was issued which called, inter alia, for the "elimination of the Zionist existence" (para. 3) and cited "the need for an all out jihad against the Zionist regime" (para. 22). In addition, it "condemned the efforts by the United States to hold the so-called Middle East peace conference" (para. 11), and called upon Islamic countries "to establish in their military permanent units for the purpose of forming the Al-Qods Liberation Army and maintaining a state of preparedness and active participation in the Islamic campaign and defense against the Zionist enemy" (para. 8).

Participating in the conference were approximately 400 figures from Arab and Islamic countries around the world. The Palestine Liberation Organization was represented at the conference by Sheikh Abd el-Hamid al-Sayeh, the speaker of its so-called Palestine National Council. Also taking part in the conference was Ahmed Jibril, head of the Damascus-based PFLP-GC, who declared that, "Peace will only be justified when Palestine returns to its pre-1948 status" (IRNA, 20 October 1991).

The above-mentioned statements of President Rafsanjani and Ayatollah Khamenei constitute a clear violation of Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations, which requires that all Member States "refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force," against other States. By openly calling for the use of force against a fellow Member State of the United Nations, the Government of Iran has once again demonstrated its infidelity to the principles of the Charter.

The Government of Iran does not, however, limit itself to verbal pronouncements, but also extends active support, both ideological and practical, to terrorist groups opposed to the peace process.

The conference itself was a blatant attempt to undermine efforts to promote peace in the Middle East, and it came precisely when much of the international community is looking forward to the opening of the peace conference in Madrid.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35, 125, 131 and 135, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yoram ARIDOR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative